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# SPEAKER NOTES

MARCH 4-5, 2022



**AWAKEN**

OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE PROMISE OF CHRIST'S RETURN

# WELCOME

## Hello!

Thank you for joining us for our 2022 Look Up Virtual Conference: AWAKEN. We hope that over the next two days your eyes will be opened to the promise of Christ's return.

This resource is a compilation of the notes given by each speaker to enrich your learning experience. We hope you will track along with each message and use them as a reference!

We encourage you to consider how each message impacts your life, and we pray that AWAKEN changes the way you live with eyes wide open for the Lord!

Until He returns,

The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry



# DAY ONE

## SESSION 1

### SET YOUR FOCUS

#### 1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS OVERVIEW

JIM SHOWERS

#### I. Awaken

- A. Paul is calling us to awaken from our slumber, 1 & 2 Th.
  - 1. “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren,” 1 Th. 4:13
    - a. Open your eyes to the promise of Christ’s return
  - 2. “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Tim. 2:15
  - 3. Awaken to the coming Day of the Lord
    - a. “that the day of the Lord so comes,” 1 Th. 5:2
    - b. “For the day of the Lord is coming,” Joel 2:1

#### II. This Session – Set Your Focus

- A. How do we set our focus on the coming Day of the Lord?
  - 1. Eye doctor exam
    - a. “Is it better 1, better 2, or the same?”
      - i. Process to set the right focus so we see well
  - 2. Overview of the Day of the Lord in Scripture
    - a. Particularly in the Old Testament
      - i. Develop a basic understanding
  - 3. Should we fear the Day of the Lord or embrace it?
    - a. This is the question Paul was addressing
    - b. Setting our focus is the first step in answering this question
    - c. Paul thought it was vitally important for the church to know about the Day of the Lord
      - i. Major emphasis in both 1 & 2 Th.
    - d. The coming Day of the Lord is prophetic – forward looking
      - i. Importance of studying prophecy
        - 1. Pilot story – I know how to take off
          - » Important to know how to land also
      - ii. Open window to knowing how God will end this age
        - 1. Begins with the Rapture of the church
- B. To set our focus on the Day of the Lord
  - 1. Grasp an understanding of it
    - a. Discover five settings that set your focus



### III. The Coming Day of the Lord – Prescription Settings to Set Your Focus

- A. Focus Setting #1 – The Day of the Lord is God’s doing
  - 1. Initiated and controlled by Him
    - a. To accomplish His purpose
  - 2. Awesome power and sovereignty of God on display
    - a. Unlike any other period on Earth, Joel 3:14–16
  - 3. Like restoring the glory of an old home
    - a. Purchase – pay the price to acquire the home
    - b. Demolition – remove all the old, rotten materials
    - c. Restore – build it back to its former glory
    - d. Inhabit – live in and enjoy the restored home
  - 4. Parallels to restoring a home
    - a. Purchase – Christ bought back the earth for mankind
    - b. Demolition – remove all the rebellious ones
    - c. Restore – return the earth to its former glory
    - d. Inhabit – live in the restored earth for 1,000 years
- B. Focus Setting #2 – The coming Day of the Lord is God’s intervention
  - 1. God is stepping into the affairs of men
    - a. He is changing the course of human events
      - i. To judge those in rebellion
      - ii. To restore His Kingdom
      - iii. To place a human to rule over His Kingdom
      - iv. To demonstrate His sovereignty over the universe
  - 2. Past examples of the Day of the Lord
    - a. Used to judge specific nations
      - i. 700s BC - Raise up Assyria to judge the Israel, Amos 5:18, 20
      - ii. 600–500s BC – Raise up Babylon to judge Judah, Lam. 1:12; 2:1, 21–22; Ezek. 7:19; 13:5; Zeph. 1:7–13; 2:2–3
      - iii. 500s BC – Using Babylon to judge Egypt, Jer. 46:10; Ezek. 30:3
      - iv. 500s BC – Raising up Medo-Persia to judge Babylon, Isa. 13:6, 9
- C. Focus Setting #3 – The coming Day of the Lord is part of God’s redemption plan
  - 1. Rebellion in God’s Kingdom
    - a. The need for redemption
      - i. Began with Satan’s fall,
        - 1. God cast him to Earth, Isa. 14:12–15; Ezek. 28:12–17
      - ii. Satan led man into rebellion, Gen. 3:1–8
      - iii. God promised a male child, Gen. 3:15
        - 1. To end the rebellion and restore His Kingdom
    - iv. Christ’s First Coming paid the redemption price
      - 1. Bought back man’s right to rule the earth, Rev. 5:9

2. The coming Day of the Lord
    - a. God is acting to judge and restore
    - b. Day of the Lord refers to specific time periods of varying lengths
      - i. A day – Second Coming of Christ
      - ii. A short period – Tribulation
      - iii. An extended period of time – Millennium
      - iv. Encompass all of these periods
    - c. The context of the passage defines the period
  3. The coming Day of the Lord
    - a. With the Second Coming of Christ, God will
      - i. Remove the rebellious ones, Rev. 19:11–20:3
      - ii. Restore the earth of its pre-fall glory, Mt. 19:28
      - iii. Reestablish man’s rule as God’s representative
        1. Christ is the last Adam, 1 Cor. 15:45
      - iv. Christ will rule over Earth for 1,000 years, Rev. 20:4–6
- D. Focus Setting #4 – Two aspects of the coming Day of the Lord
1. Darkness – great and terrible day
    - a. The coming Day of the Lord begins with a tremendous outpouring of divine wrath
      - i. Sun, moon, and stars darkened, Joel 2:31
      - ii. Cosmic signs as it nears, Joel 3:14–15
    - b. God will bring judgment on His enemies
      - i. A day of darkness, Joel 2:1–2
      - ii. It will be darkness, and not light, Amos 5:18–20
      - iii. A day of darkness and gloominess, Zeph. 1:14–15
    - c. Dark – unprecedented, concentrated wrath of God
      - i. No divine blessing
    - d. Time of Great Tribulation, Mt. 24:21–22
      - i. God will judge all the nations, Isa. 34:1-8; Obad. 15
      - ii. God will judge the armies of the nations, Joel 3; Zech. 14; Rev. 19
      - iii. Were it to continue, no one would survive, Mt. 24:22
    - e. Darkness concludes with the return of Christ to end the rebellion and judge the wicked
      - i. The Lord shall go forth to fight against the nations, Zech. 14:1–7
      - ii. Christ will strike the nations, Rev. 19:11–20:4
        1. Remove the rebellious ones from the earth
  2. Light – outpouring of God’s blessing
    - a. Restoration of God’s theocratic Kingdom rule over the Earth
      - i. Divine dominion over the earth
      - ii. Earth returned to pre-sin condition on earth
    - b. Administration of God’s rule
      - i. The Lord shall be King over all the earth, Zech. 14:8–9

- ii. We shall reign with Him for 1,000 years, Rev. 20:5–7
    - c. Outpouring of God’s blessing
      - i. In that day, His resting place will be glorious, Isa. 11:1–9
      - ii. The increase of the earth will be fat and plentiful, Isa. 30:23–26
      - iii. In the regeneration, ‘palin genesis’ literally, “genesis again,” Mt. 19:28
      - iv. The time of refreshing and restoration of all things, Acts 3:19–21
  - 3. Timeline of the future Day of the Lord
    - a. From tribulation to glory
- E. Focus Setting #5 – Significance of the coming Day of the Lord
- 1. Graphic reminder, God is the one and only sovereign God of the universe
    - a. His divine power and glory are on display
  - 2. Bring an end to the rule of Satan and rebellious man
    - a. Evict all God’s enemies from Earth
  - 3. The blessings of God are restored on Earth
    - a. Experienced by Adam and Eve before the fall
  - 4. Give us hope
    - a. This broken world will not continue forever
    - b. Our future is bright – if we put our faith in Jesus Christ

#### IV. Conclusion

- A. You now have your prescription in hand
  - 1. You can set your focus
    - a. Awaken to what Paul says about the coming Day of the Lord

# DAY ONE

## SESSION 2

# THE COMFORTING PROMISE OF CHRIST'S COMING

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-19 | STEVE HERZIG

## I. Introduction

- A. Steve Jobs' quote from Stanford University graduation speech, 2005
- B. "The Leftovers"—HBO series from the book by Tom Perrotta

## II. The Reason for the Epistle

- A. Confirm the doctrinal truths he taught while there
- B. Comfort through their suffering
- C. Coming of Christ for the church

## III. The Revelation (1 Th. 4:13–14)

- A. Eliminating ignorance
- B. Enumerating the gospel

## IV. The Reunion (vv. 15–16)

- A. Priority of the message: Source - "We say to you by the word of the Lord"
- B. Priority of deceased believers: Dead in Christ go first, then those still alive
- C. Priority of shout (military word for "command"): to gather
- D. Priority of voice (archangel Michael, Jude 9)
- E. Priority of trumpet of God: God calling His church, dead and alive

## V. The Rapture (v. 17)

- A. Taking the church (dead believers and alive believers) up in the clouds
- B. Taking up residence with the person of Christ; John 14, with Him forever

## VI. The Response (v. 18)

- A. Promotes comfort
- B. Promotes holy living
- C. Promotes evangelism

## VII. Application for the believer

- A. Death should not be something we fear because, unlike those without Christ, we have hope in the person of Jesus Christ.



# DAY ONE

## SESSION 3

### EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11 | DAN PRICE

**I. Christians cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ by the coming Day of the Lord (1 Th. 5:1-4, 9-10)**

**A. Background on the “Day of the Lord”**

1. Not only a reference to the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Examples: Ezekiel 13:5; Ezekiel 30:3; Jeremiah 46:10; Joel 1:(15)–2:17
2. Most often refers to a period of \_\_\_\_\_
3. God intervenes in history in a powerful, overwhelming way to work His will
4. Often encompasses 3 major aspects:
  - a. Judgment on \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Judgment on God’s \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Purification and \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s people

**B. Three characteristics of the Day of the Lord (according to 1 Th. 5)**

1. Comes \_\_\_\_\_, like a thief (vv. 2-3)
2. Brings certain \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 3)
3. Brings the \_\_\_\_\_ and judgment of God (v. 9)

**C. Three Questions**

1. When is the Day of the Lord going to happen?
2. Is this going to happen to me?
3. What am I supposed to do about it?

**II. Christians cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ about the Day of the Lord (vv. 5-8)**

- A. Our walks with God here and now should be impacted by knowing the Day of the Lord is coming (vv. 6-8)
- B. Paul argues that what the Thessalonians \_\_\_\_\_ with the knowledge of the Day of the Lord is a \_\_\_\_\_ issue than learning more facts about it (vv. 1-2)
- C. Paul motivates with metaphors (vv. 5-7)

Those of the _____	We who are of the _____
Of the darkness	Sons/children of light
Sleeping	Watch
Drunk	Sober

**D. We who are of the \_\_\_\_\_ are to live “sober”**

1. Sober: self-\_\_\_\_\_



2. To curb controlling influence of inappropriate \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
3. Sober Christian living is marked by
  - a. Faith
  - b. Love
  - c. Hope
4. Sober Christian living has the same seriousness as \_\_\_\_\_ prepping for war

E. Two Questions

1. Is there an area of \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ in your life about which God is calling you to wake up?
2. Is there a \_\_\_\_\_ to your walk with God?

# DAY TWO

## SESSION 1

### TOSSING AND TURNING

2 THESSALONIANS 1:3-12 | CHRIS KATULKA

“How long, O Lord?” is the cry of the saints from Genesis to Revelation. Old Testament saints waited for the Messiah’s arrival to deliver them from their enemies. The church—dealing with physical and spiritual persecution—is waiting for the Messiah to come again to make “all things new” (Rev. 21:5). Jesus never promised a simplistic, effortless, or easy life for following Him, but the prophetic hope He secured in His death, resurrection, and ascension ensures that one day His people would be vindicated and all wrongs would be made right. The apostle Paul is reiterating to the Thessalonians and the church at large that God hears their prayers and will avenge their suffering.

- I. **How Long, O Lord? (2 Th. 1:3-4/Ps. 94:3)**
  
- II. **Come Down, Judge of the Earth (2 Th. 1:5-10/Ps. 94:2)**
  
- III. **Certainly, the Lord Does Not Forsake His People (2 Th. 1:11-12/Ps. 94:14)**

# DAY TWO

## SESSION 2

### A WORD OF WARNING: DON'T HIT SNOOZE!

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12 | MIKE STALLARD

#### I. The Problem Being Addressed (2 Th. 2:1-2)

- A. The “coming” and gathering together (v. 1)
- B. The thematic outline of 2 Thessalonians
- C. The “Day of the Lord” concern (v. 2) – Which makes better sense?
  1. If the Day of the Lord is the Second Coming event with its judgments, would the Thessalonians be worried that they had missed Christ’s return and they were in the Kingdom?
  2. If the Day of the Lord is the Tribulation period, would the Thessalonians be worried that they were already in the Tribulation in light of the persecution they were suffering?

#### II. The Answer to the Problem (vv. 3-4)

Two things must happen first before the Day of the Lord occurs

- A. A departure (apostasia) takes place (v. 3)
  1. Does “apostasy” or “departure” mean departure as in “rapture”?
  2. Does “apostasy” mean departure as in departure from true religious faith?
    - a. Christian apostasy?
    - b. Jewish apostasy?
    - c. Related to the Antichrist?
  3. Notice that the word is definite (has an article) – “the” apostasy
- B. The man of lawlessness (son of destruction) appears (v. 3)
  1. His nature (vv. 3-4)
    - a. Lawlessness (v. 3)
    - b. Destruction (v. 3)
    - c. Arrogance/self-worship (v. 4)
  2. Identification of the Temple (v. 4)
    - a. Pagan?
    - b. Christian? (i.e., the church?)
    - c. Jewish? (i.e., perhaps related to the abomination of desolation in Daniel and Matthew 24?)
    - d. See the chart on the Antichrist which emphasizes Jewish things
  3. The Restrainer (v. 5-7)
    - a. A teaching the Thessalonians already know (v. 5)
    - b. Impersonal restrainer (v. 6)
    - c. Personal restrainer (v. 7)



- d. Options for identification
- 4. Destruction of Antichrist (v. 8)
- 5. Deception of Antichrist (vv. 9–12)
  - a. Relationship to Satan (vv. 9–10)
  - b. Debated issue about who is deluded (vv. 10–12)
    - i. Those who rejected Christ before the tribulation?
    - ii. Those who reject Christ in the tribulation? (see Rev. 13)

III. Conclusion: A Word of Warning – Don’t Hit Snooze

The Antichrist (1 John 2:18–22)				
Designation & Main Passage	Exalts Himself as God	Relationship to Jewish Temple & Law	Deception	His Destruction
<b>Little Horn</b> <i>Dan. 7:7–28</i>	A mouth uttering great boasts (v. 8); boastful words (vv. 11, 20)	Will intend to make alterations in times and law (v. 25)		The beast was slain and given to the burning fire (vv. 11, 26)
<b>Prince Who Is to Come</b> <i>Dan. 9:24–27</i>		He will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering (v. 27)	Breaks his treaty with Israel (v. 27)	A complete destruction is poured out on the one who makes desolate (v. 27)
<b>Willful King</b> <i>Dan. 11:36–45</i>	He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods (v. 36)	He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful holy mountain (v. 45)		He will come to his end and no one will help him (v. 45)
<b>Beast</b> <i>Rev. 13</i>	There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies (v. 5)	Compare Rev. 11 & 12: “Rise and measure the temple of God” (11:1); “outside the temple” (11:2); the image of a woman as Israel (12:1–17)	Deception through the False Prophet: He deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs (v. 14; cf. Rev. 20:20)	These two (Beast and False Prophet) were thrown alive into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20)
<b>Man of Lawlessness, Son of Destruction</b> <i>2 Th. 2:3–10</i>	Who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship; displaying himself to be God (v. 4)	He takes his seat in the temple of God (v. 4)	With all power and signs and false wonders, and with all deception (vv. 9–10)	The Lord will slay and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming (v. 8)

# DAY TWO

## SESSION 3

### AWAKEN TO THE NEW DAY

2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17 | TY PERRY

#### I. Introduction: Not on the Home Team

- A. Christians viewed as bigots
- B. Christians persecuted for faith
- C. The Thessalonian church—no stranger to hostility from culture
- D. Paul reminds the church of:
  - 1. Their identity
  - 2. Their charge
  - 3. Their strength
  - 4. Their hope
  - 5. Their task

#### II. The Believer's Identity (2 Th. 2:13-14)

- A. Beloved (v. 13a)
- B. Chosen (v. 13b)
- C. Called (v. 14a)
- D. Destined for glory (v. 14b)

#### III. The Believer's Charge (v. 15)

- A. Stand firm
- B. Hold to the traditions

#### IV. The Believer's Strength (v. 16a)

- A. The Lord Jesus Christ
- B. God our Father

#### V. The Believer's Hope (v. 16b)

- A. Eternal comfort
- B. Good hope

#### VI. The Believer's Task (v. 17)

- A. Good works
- B. Good words

**VII. Conclusion**

- A. The world hates Christ
- B. The world hates the church
- C. The world needs Christ
- D. Marching orders for the new day
  - 1. To remember who we are in Christ
  - 2. To stand firm, persevering
  - 3. To do all in the strength He supplies
  - 4. To get to work in word and deed



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